



Donald Kunze <kunze767@gmail.com>

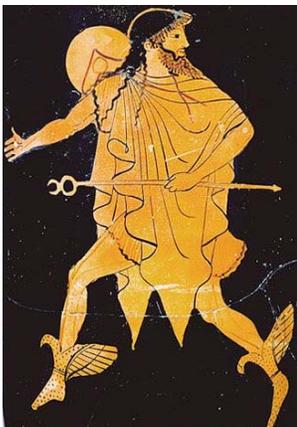
Wednesday notes

1 message

WEDNESDAY NEWSLITTER

rrr rrrr rrrr • 11 september 2013

Benissime! We made a lot of progress in this session, moving from an "Adam Smith" view of **emergence** as the "unseen hand" behind self-regulation in free markets (and ideologies), to the **biological model** (ending with the modification of neurons creating emergent behaviors), to **neural networks** (the work of Stephen Wolfram, *A New Kind of Science*), to Benoît Mandelbrot's work on self-referentiality and fractals (a theme familiar to our study of the number nine last spring), to the Greek god Hermes (L. Mercurius) and the practice of **silent trade**, erotic seduction, theft, and market regulation — we are back where we started!



Hermes: messenger, conductor of souls of the dead, market regulator

Oops, and not for nothing did we then think of Krishna in the **Bhagvad Gita**, the relation of **turbulence to laminar flow** (soon to come: revisit of the Lucretian "flow model" vs. **clinamen**), and last but not least, the always useful example of *The Truman Show*.

Metalepsis of course covers all these bases in one way or another. *The Truman Show* is metalepsis in a box, the box being the monadic television set built by the god-like director Christof to document the cradle-to-grave life of Truman, who is the only one on the set who is not a paid actor. Truman's final and successful attempt to escape the idyllic world of Seaview, Florida, is almost foiled by Christof's argument: it's the same on the outside as the inside. But, like a good Lacanian, Truman "**traverses the fantasy**" and opens the door on the "sky" of the horizon.



Truman making that escape *via* the metaleptic staircase

Is this a metaphor for our **freedom within ideology**, to be aware? In psychoanalytical terms it is a good approximation, since psychoanalysis begins with the **symptom/sinthom** that separates the **paranoiac** and **hysteric** from their source of pain/pleasure. Where the hysteric finds pleasure in the immediate back-and-forth of transference fantasy, the melancholic/paranoiac **delays the predications** so that a whole world of conspiracies and hidden forces is created, making the symptoms all the more convincing. Reducing these is quite a project, but this "paranoiac" construction is, for Todd McGowan, nothing less than ideology, symptoms recognized collectively thanks to the algorithm of enjoyment.

All in all, a "fine day out." Thanks to all for advancing this topic into the stratosphere. Hopefully Arjun (Arjuna reincarnated?) may join us with some more angles on the scientific/engineering aspects.

cheers



Don Kunze

PhD / Prof of Architecture and Integrative Arts, Emeritus

web: art3idea.psu.edu